

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 034645

FOLLOWING TELEGRAM FROM LAGOS DATED JANUARY 28, 1976
SENT SECSTATE WASHDC IS REPEATED TO YOU: QUOTE

FOLLOWING IBADAN 0060 23 JAN RPT FOR YOUR INFO:

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PARM, PINR, NI

SUBJECT: BOLAJI AKINYEMI: THE EMINENCE GRIS OF NIGERIAN
FOREIGN POLICY?

REF: A) IBADAN MEMO TO FILES OF FEBRUARY 27, 1975,

B) 74 LAGOS A-136

1. SUMMARY: RECENT DEVELOPMENTS HAVE LED US TO SPECULATE
THAT DR. BOLAJI AKINYEMI, DIRECTOR OF THE NIGERIAN INSTITUTE
OF INTERNAL AFFAIRS, IS HAVING A LARGE IMPACT ON
NIGERIAN FOREIGN POLICY AND MAY BE ACTING AS PERSONAL
ADVISOR TO GENS MOHAMMED AND OBASANJO ON FOREIGN POLICY
QUESTIONS. IF TRUE, THIS COULD PROVIDE A GUIDE TO FUTURE
NIGERIAN ACTIONS, AND A CLUE TO OUTCOME OF CURRENT FMF FOREIGN
POLICY REVIEW RECENTLY ANNOUNCED BY MEA COMMISSIONER GARBA.
END SUMMARY.

2. WE ARE STRUCK BY STRONG COINCIDENCE OF FOREIGN POLICY
VIEWS RECENTLY EXPRESSED BY RANKING FMG OFFICIALS
(MOHAMMED, OBASANJO, GARBA) WITH THOSE PREVIOUSLY KNOWN
TO BE HELD BY NIIA DIRECTOR BOLAJI AKINYEMI. IN ADDITION,
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AKINYEMI'S RECENT APPEARANCES AT KEY MEETINGS SUGGESTS

HE MAY HAVE CONSIDERABLE INFLUENCE OVER BOTH FOREIGN POLICY AND OPERATIONS, AND THAT HE MAY HAVE BEEN MOST INFLUENTIAL IN OVERRIDING GARBA'S AND OTHER MODERATES' STAND ON THE ANGOLA QUESTION REPORTED LAGOS 0716. HE ACCOMPANIED MOHAMMED TO THE OAU SUMMIT MEETING ON ANGOLA AND IS REPORTED TO HAVE ADDRESSED A RECENT WEEK-LONG SEMINAR FOR SENIOR MILITARY OFFICERS IN IBADAN, WHICH WAS HELD TO EXPLAIN FOREIGN POLICY LINE TO TOP BRASS. OBASANJO, ADDRESSING MID-DECEMBER SECOND DIVISION OFFICERS' CONFERENCE (ALSO ADDRESSED BY AKINYEMI) USED ONE OF AKINYEMI'S FAVORITE PHRASES: "THERE ARE IN INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS NO PERMANENT FRIENDS, ONLY PERMANENT INTERESTS." THIS PHRASE ALSO SUMMS UP WHAT WE SENSE TO BE AKINYEMI'S PHILOSOPHY OF UNDERCOOKED REALPOLITIK. BARR. EASUM UNQUOTE INGERSOLL

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